eases, leprosy and T.B. In addition, a Group Insurance Scheme has also been introduced for providing financial support in case of death to the dependents of beedi workers.

निजी क्षेत्र में विकलांगों के लिए आरक्षण

2414. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:** क्या सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि "विकलांग दिवस" पर राष्ट्रीय विकलांग सम्मेलन में वक्ताओं ने मांग की है कि सरकार को विकलांगों के लिए निजी क्षेत्र में भी आरक्षण की व्यवस्था करके उनके साथ न्याय करना चाहिए; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार का क्या रवैया है?

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती मेनका गांधी): (क) सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय को इस संबंध में कोई सूचना नहीं मिली है।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Rehabilitation of Widows in Vrindavan

2415. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of widows living in Vrindavan for their livelihood;

(b) the measures proposed to look into their welfare in old ages; and

(c) the steps proposed to grant them maintenance allowance or pension for their livelihood or to rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Cabinet Committee for Social Justice and Empowerment

2416. CHAUDHARY CHUNNILAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Cabinet Committee for Social Justice and Empowerment constituted;

(b) whether meetings of this Committee have been held regularly; and

(c) if so, how many meetings have been held; if not, what are the reasons for conspicuous irregularity having been committed in respect of such an important matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No Cabinet Committee with the nomenclature "Cabinet Committee for Social Justice and Empowerment" has been constituted.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise.

Identification of senior citizen

2417. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the cut off age for a person to be identified as a senior citizen/elderly person;

(b) the population of elder persons in India as on 1st January, 1998; and

(c) the details of steps taken/being taken to provide social security, medical, journeys and other facilities vis-a-vis International year to the elderly people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) It may not be practical to prescribe a uniform age beyond which persons are treated as older persons. Government officials retire at